

B5 terminates a sequence of speech recognition processes when an adequate speech recognition result is acquired as determined by step 210.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 30 at line 19 with the following paragraph:

B6 When no adequate speech recognition result is acquired in step 210, on the other hand, the speech recognizer 7 checks in step 212 if there are next candidates of speech frame data and noise frame data, reads the next candidates of speech frame data and noise frame data, if present, from the storage section 4 and repeats the sequence of processes starting at step 208. When no adequate speech recognition result is obtained even after re-execution of the speech recognition, the speech recognizer 7 likewise reads next candidates of speech frame data and noise frame data from the storage section 4 and repeats the sequence of processes in steps 208 to 212 until the adequate speech recognition result is obtained.

A marked-up copy of the amended paragraphs of the specification is attached as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 2, 4, 5 and 6 as follows:

B7 2. (Amended) The speech recognition system according to claim 1, wherein that of said speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup means whose speech level is equal to or higher than a predetermined speech level and continues over a predetermined period of time is selected as said speech signal suitable for speech recognition.

4. (Amended) The speech recognition system according to claim 3,

wherein:

said determination means determines a candidate order of those speech signals whose average S/N values and average voice powers are greater than said respective predetermined threshold values and which are candidates for said speech signal suitable for speech recognition, in accordance with said average S/N values and average voice powers; and

said speech recognition means sequentially executes speech recognition on said candidates in accordance with said candidate order from a highest candidate to a lower one.

5. (Amended) The speech recognition system according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said determination means comprises:

treating those of said speech signals which are other than said speech signal suitable for speech recognition as noise signals.

6. (Amended) The speech recognition system according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the meaning of other speech signals than said speech signal suitable for speech recognition, is determined to be that those speech signals whose average S/N value and average voice power become minimum and that such signals are treated as noise by said determination means.

A marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.